



SENTINEL



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July 16, 2010

Saying goodbye to a fallen comrade



Photo by Maj. Paul F. Mitchell

Soldiers, Civilian employees and friends of Master Sgt. Pedro Mercado gather July 1 to pay their respects during his memorial ceremony at the 3rd Medical Command's drill hall on Fort Gillem. Mercado, who died June 17 as the result of a shooting at the U.S. Army Reserve Center on Fort Gillem, served as NCOIC of the personnel section of the Army Medical Department's Professional Management Command. For the story and more photos, see pages 10 and 11.

Employee transition from NSPS to GS personnel system underway

Commander's Message

Col. Deborah B. Grays

Garrison Commander
Fort McPherson & Fort Gillem



While it may seem changes in our professional environment didn't become part of our major focus here until BRAC was announced, the truth is, it's always been part of our working world. In fact, we're undergoing a major transition in the near future that has nothing to do with that most-common acronym.

Within the next couple of months, many of our employees will transition from the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) to the General Schedule (GS) system. For a lot of you, the change will feel like returning to an old friend (albeit a friend with many fewer pages where annual performance appraisals are concerned!). For others, who have never worked as a GS employee, the transition will mean learning a whole new personnel system. Either way, affected employees have a lot of questions.

There are many aspects to the conversion from one system to another that we already know. For example, employees returning to the GS system will be placed under the Army's Total Army Performance Evaluation System (TAPES) for performance management. Also, the Congressional mandate repealing the NSPS system states no employees will lose income as a result of the conversion.

Human resources personnel in each of our commands continue to receive guidance to help transitioning employees make the leap from one system to the other as smoothly as possible. In the garrison, we will host an NSPS transition town hall meeting Aug. 3 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fort McPherson

Post Theater to provide information to affected employees. I recommend transitioning employees in our customer commands coordinate with your supervisors and human resources personnel to determine your avenues for gaining information about the conversion.

In addition to local personnel resources, employees can visit the Army NSPS Web site at <http://cpol.army.mil/library/general/nsps/repeal.html>. From this site, employees have access to the "GS-101 Training Course" and "Performance Management: A Tool to Achieve Results" online courses, which transitioning employees are required to complete by Aug. 15.

The Army NSPS Web site is expected to be updated often to provide current information on the transformation and new training opportunities.

Another NSPS Web site, provided by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, is located at www.cpmis.osd.mil/nsps/. From this site, users can see how many federal employees have transitioned so far, read or download an "NSPS to GS Transition Guide," get answers to frequently asked questions and use a transition simulator.

NSPS was enacted within the DoD through the FY04 National Defense Authorization Act and signed into public law by President George W. Bush Nov. 24, 2003. At its inception, the enactment of the NSPS program was touted as a key pillar of DoD's ongoing transformation effort and a historically sig-

nificant example of modern U.S. Civil Service reform. NSPS was repealed by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, which requires all employees to be transitioned out of NSPS by Jan. 1, 2012. Garrison employees here are scheduled to transition by August 15, with a final deadline of September 30.

In an American Forces Press Service news release dated June

10, John H. James Jr., director of the Pentagon's NSPS Transition Office, notes

the challenges associated with transferring employees between two fundamentally different classification and pay systems. The

release explains NSPS is based on pay bands that encompass a broad range of duties and responsibilities and allows employees to advance within a single pay band based on performance.

In contrast, the GS system tightly defines duties and responsibilities in discrete pay grades based on a position's difficulty, responsibility and qualification requirements.

Here at Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem, change has become very much a part of our lives. We should handle this major conversion the same way we deal with all the other transitions affecting us today — by getting as much information as we can, being as proactive as possible, asking the questions we need answered and, above all, being the epitome of the professional workforce that we are.



Garrison Commander

Col. Deborah Broughton Grays

**Public Affairs Officer and
Command Information Officer**
Debi Sage

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FORSCOM bids farewell to retiring CSM Carey

Staff Sgt. John D. Brown
44th Military History Detachment

"The steel mill closed ... I was tending bar, working for a plumber, and I saw a John Wayne movie," said Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis M. Carey, outgoing U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) command sergeant major, when asked why he joined the Army in 1977.

By passing responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald T. Riling Monday, Carey ended his more than four years as the senior enlisted Soldier of FORSCOM and more than 33 years in uniform. With dozens of commendations during the last three decades, Carey served in every enlisted leadership position from team leader to command sergeant major.

"Over the years, this Soldier has

done the tough jobs ... (he's) made a living training, mentoring and leading Soldiers," said Gen. James D. Thurman, FORSCOM commander.

Carey said his career has been all about taking care of Soldiers.

"The most effect I ever had (directly) on Soldiers was as a squad leader," said Carey.

During his tenure as FORSCOM command sergeant major, Carey

said he tried to visit as many FORSCOM Soldiers as possible, adding he took every opportunity to visit Soldiers at training and mobilization sites such as Camp Shelby, Miss., Fort Dix, N.J. and Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif.

Carey said he had a simple message to the NCOs of the Army's largest command: "Take care of your Soldiers (and remember) that it's harder (when) not deployed than it is (when) deployed sometimes."

Carey also said, "We have the most

tactically proficient (NCO Corps) we've probably had since World War II."

Carey said he wants to remind enlisted Soldiers to "look out for each other; don't forget those bonds you developed while you were deployed. It may be a rough time for the Army in the next couple years so be prepared, train hard and take care of each other."

Carey's last official trip as FORSCOM command sergeant major was to Walter Reed Army Medical Center Friday, where he visited some wounded warriors he first encountered during a recent trip to Afghanistan.

Carey had visited the wounded Soldiers when they first arrived at the hospital in theater, and again when they were transferred to medical facilities in Germany.

Carey said he plans to retire with his wife, Kim, to the Fort Bragg, N.C. area, where he plans to continue working with Soldiers.



Photos by Spc. Hillary Rustine

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis M. Carey (right), outgoing U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) command sergeant major, passes the Colors to Gen. James D. Thurman (left), FORSCOM commander, as Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald T. Riling, incoming FORSCOM command sergeant major, looks on during the sergeants major's change of responsibility ceremony held Monday at Fort McPherson.



Carey and his wife, Kim, enjoy personalized rocking chairs and the Army flag that was presented to them by FORSCOM Soldiers during his retirement luncheon held July 7 at Fort McPherson.

Leaders urge participation in 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' survey

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

Noting the importance of getting the opinions of those who would be most affected by a possible repeal of the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law that bans gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates urged servicemembers July 8 to provide their input.

About 400,000 servicemembers are receiving an e-mail survey seeking their opinions, and the department has an online inbox at <https://dadtd.csd.disa.mil/> for additional feedback from common access card holders.

"I think it is very important for us to understand from our men and women in uniform the challenges that they see," Gates said during a Pentagon news conference July 8, noting the department needs their views on the subject.

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the department needs objective information that the survey can deliver, and emphasized that no one is drawing conclusions about the survey until it is finished.

Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe, and Jeh Johnson, the Pentagon's top lawyer, are leading a review panel that's assessing the current law.

"I would say that this survey is a very important element of this effort, in part because while Gen. Ham and general counsel Jeh Johnson have talked to thousands of troops in dozens of military facilities, we have gotten several tens of thousands of comments and views by e-mail in response to the request for people's thoughts on this," Gates said. "This size sampling is obviously the most significant element of getting the views of the troops."

The survey, released July 7, will go to 200,000



Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Jerry Morrison

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speak during a press conference at the Pentagon July 8. During the briefing, Gates urged servicemembers to provide their input to an e-mail survey seeking their opinions about a possible repeal of the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law.

active duty servicemembers and 200,000 reserve component personnel. Officials estimate it will take 30 minutes to complete the survey, and the deadline for returning it is Aug. 15. Another survey will go to 150,000 Family members in August. Both surveys are confidential, the secretary pointed out.

"I strongly encourage gays and lesbians who are in the military to fill out these forms," Gates said. "We've organized this in a way to protect their privacy and the confidentiality of their responses through a third party, and it's important that we hear from them, as well as everybody else."

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' surveys hit servicemembers' e-mail inboxes

Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Carden

American Forces Press Service

At noon July 7, DoD officials announced the e-mailing of surveys to 400,000 servicemembers as part of a special review to prepare the military for a potential repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law that bans gays and lesbians from openly serving.

Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe, and Jeh Johnson, the Pentagon's top lawyer, head the

review panel.

"The voice of the servicemembers is still vitally important," the general said, noting that although amendments to the current law were approved by legislators in May, lawmakers still require Pentagon review.

"This is draft regulation, it is not yet enacted into law, and there are several hurdles yet to come," Ham said.

The group has been meeting with troops and Family members since

February.

Surveys also were distributed because time and financial constraints precluded meeting with every single member, Ham explained in a recent Pentagon Channel interview.

The surveys will give the panel a baseline of information that best represents the military's 2.2 million servicemembers and their Families, Ham said, stressing the importance of servicemember feedback.

Engaging the force may be more

important now than before the amendments were passed, Ham said.

Half of the surveys went to active-duty servicemembers and half were sent to the reserve components. Troops who received the surveys were selected based on age, rank, service, component, military specialties, education, marital status and other factors to ensure broad and thorough feedback, Ham said.

See Survey on page 12

Veterans with PTSD, TBI, deserve best care

Presidential message

Barack Obama

President of the United States

On the Fourth of July, Michelle and I welcomed some of our extraordinary military men and women and their Families to the White House.

They were just like the thousands of active duty personnel and veterans I've met across this country and around the globe. Proud. Strong. Determined. Men and women with the courage to answer their country's call, and the character to serve the United States of America.

Because of that service because of the honor and heroism of our troops around the world, our people are safer, our nation is more secure and we are poised to end our combat mission in Iraq by the end of August, completing a drawdown of more than 90,000 troops since last January.

Still, we are a nation at war. For the better part of a decade, our men and women in uniform have

endured tour after tour in distant and dangerous places. Many have risked their lives. Many have given their lives.

As a grateful nation humbled by their service, we can never honor these American heroes or their Families enough.

Just as we have a solemn responsibility to train and equip our troops before we send them into harm's way, we have a solemn responsibility to provide our veterans and wounded warriors with the care and benefits they've earned when they come home. That is our sacred trust with all who serve — and it doesn't end when their tour of duty does.

To keep that trust, we're building a 21st century Veterans Affairs (VA), increasing its budget and ensuring the steady stream of funding it needs to support medical care for our veterans.

To help our veterans and their Families pursue a college education, we're funding and implementing the post-9/11 GI Bill.

To deliver better care in more places, we're expanding and increasing VA health care, building new wounded warrior facilities, and adapting care to better meet the needs of female veterans.

To stand with those who sacrifice, we've dedicated new support for wounded warriors and the caregivers who put their lives on hold for a loved one's long recovery.

To do right by our vets, we're working to prevent and end veteran homelessness — because in the United States of America, no one who served in our uniform should sleep on our streets.

We also know that for many of today's troops and their Families, the war doesn't end when they come home.

Too many suffer from the signature injuries of today's wars: post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). Too few receive the screening and treatment they need.

Now, in past wars, this wasn't something America always talked about. As a result, our troops and their Families often felt stigmatized or embarrassed when it came to seeking help.

Today, we've made it clear up and down the chain of command that folks should seek help if they need it. In fact, we've expanded mental health counseling and services for our vets.

For years, many veterans with PTSD who have tried to seek benefits — veterans of today's wars and earlier wars — have often found themselves stymied. They've been required to produce evidence proving that a specific event caused their PTSD. That practice has kept the vast majority of those with PTSD who served in non-combat roles, but who still waged war, from getting the care they need.

Well, I don't think our troops on the battlefield should have to take notes to keep for a claims application. I've met enough veterans to know that you don't have to engage in a firefight to endure the trauma of war, so we're changing the way things are done.

On Monday, the Department of Veterans Affairs, led by Secretary Eric Shinseki, will begin making it easier for a veteran with PTSD to get the benefits he or she needs.

This is a long-overdue step that will help veterans not just of the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars, but generations of their brave predecessors who proudly served and sacrificed in all our wars.

It's a step that proves America will always be here for our veterans, just as they've been there for us. We won't let them down. We take care of our own. And as long as I'm commander in chief, that's what we're going to keep doing. Thank you.



White House image

President Barack Obama announced Saturday that the Department of Veterans Affairs, led by Secretary Eric Shinseki, will begin making it easier for veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder to receive the benefits and treatment they need.

Restoration complete for Vietnam War memorial statue

Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Carden
American Forces Press Service

The newly refurbished Three Servicemen statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site in Washington, D.C., was unveiled July 8 after six weeks of restoration.

“This is a very noteworthy event,” said Jan Scruggs, founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF). “It’s very noteworthy for the history of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, (and) it’s really a notable event for our (National) Mall and the maintenance and preservation of our nation’s Mall.”

The statue was created by sculptor Frederick Hart. Nearly 26 years after its original unveiling in 1984, weather damage and age had taken a toll on the statue. Parts of the uniforms, weapons, hands and noses of the statue sustained some corrosion and deterioration.

The restoration was done in place and repaired oxidation damage while adding a new patina coat-

ing and wax. During restoration, the statue was protected by a wooden enclosure with three seven-foot-tall windows that allowed tourists to view progress.

“Almost 26 years later, we’re here to rededicate the statue and pledge our continued care,” said Scruggs, a Vietnam War veteran.

The statue sits about 200 feet away from the face of the Vietnam War Memorial Wall. The statue depicts three servicemembers — one Hispanic, one black and one white — and represents the more than 58,000 fallen servicemembers memorialized on the wall, Scruggs said.

“There’s a sense of artistic and dynamic tension as the servicemen gaze at the sea of names on the wall,” Scruggs said. “Over the years, people have noted that it seems almost as if the servicemen are looking to see if their own names or the names of their friends are on the wall.”

Hart’s widow, Lindy, was recognized at the ceremony for her husband’s work. Hart was the only person “who had the extraordinary talent we were

looking for and who would design the statue in such a way as to complement the memorial,” Scruggs said.

Hart is often referred to in the artistic community as America’s Michelangelo, Scruggs said, noting his other famous work, the “Creation Sculptures” on the west façade of the Washington National Cathedral.

“It is really not an exaggeration to refer to him in that manner,” Scruggs said. “He was really that good ... as good as any of the masters in sculpture throughout the history of the world.”

One of Hart’s models for the statue, William Smith, 50, of Virginia, was present and recognized at the ceremony.

Smith’s likeness was captured in the Hispanic servicemember on the right side of the statue, carrying an M-60 machine gun over his shoulder. Smith was the only model who didn’t serve in the military. The other two models were members of

See Statue on page 7

**Armed Forces
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STATUE continued from page 6

the Marine Corps Honor Guard and, at the time, were stationed at Henderson Hall Marine Barracks in Arlington, Va.

Although Smith never served, he said he's honored that his likeness helps to represent "some of the greatest Americans to ever serve."

"It's amazing to just be a part of this," Smith said. "Being a part of this just fills my soul. It makes me a much better American and gives me pride in my

country."

Retired Brig. Gen. George Price, an advocate for the statue's creation in the early 1980s, and John Piltzecker, National Mall and Memorial Parks superintendent, also attended the ceremony.

"The National Park Service (NPS) is certainly pleased that the Three Servicemen statue has been restored to reflect the artist's intent," Piltzecker said. "We will continue to work with our partner,

the VVMF, to maintain the statue for all to enjoy."

The restoration project cost about \$25,000. The funds were raised by an NPS share grant and an in-home fundraiser by Lindy Hart. Individual contributions also were made. New Arts Foundry of Baltimore did the restoration work.

The project is part of a maintenance and restoration program by the VVMF to assist the NPS in site upkeep.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Carden

(Left to right) Retired Brig. Gen. George Price; John Piltzecker, National Mall and Memorial Parks superintendent; Lindy Hart, widow of sculptor Frederick Hart; and Jan Scruggs, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund founder and president, unveil the Three Servicemen statue during a rededication ceremony July 8 at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The statue, which was originally unveiled in 1984, underwent six weeks of restoration to repair damage and restore the original patina.

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Hagan & Hagan
GMAC Reality
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Command sergeant major vows continued service despite BRAC

Kevin Stabinsky
Sentinel assistant editor

Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem may be winding down operations, but you wouldn't be able to tell that from watching Command Sgt. Maj. Karl Roberts, U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) command sergeant major

Roberts, who has been acting in his position since April 1, said despite the closings of the two installations in accordance with the BRAC, he intends to keep customer service and Soldier training strong.

"As command sergeant major, I'm just trying to keep the standards and make sure customer service doesn't drop," he said. "We want the same level of support until the day before we close."

Such a level of support is important because of his commitment to service-members, Civilian employees, Families and the military retiree community, said Roberts.

"They are the heartbeat of what we do,

whether at war or in the garrison," he said.

Roberts said he is actively working to ensure that problems are addressed to keep things running smoothly.

To find issues, Roberts said he interacts with Family readiness groups, housing area coordinators and directorates on the installations.

Although he actively works to stay ahead of issues, Roberts said he also empowers subordinates, allowing them to solve problems at their level.

"In problem solving, we seek leaders and directors first. We owe it to them (to let them try) to fix problems first," he said, adding that he will only step in if leaders are not working according to the policy and philosophy of Col. Deborah B. Grays, USAG commander.

Besides keeping services running efficiently, Roberts said he is focusing on Soldiers.

See CSM on page 12



Photo by Kevin Stabinsky

Command Sgt. Maj. Karl Roberts (right), U.S. Army Garrison command sergeant major, attends Wednesday's garrison commander's staff meeting in the garrison headquarter's command conference room. Roberts said Interacting with leaders and Soldiers allows him to get an accurate view of things going on.

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Intramural softball champions crowned



Courtesy photos

On June 28, the intramural softball league crowned its champions, the U.S. Army Reserve Command. The team (left), coached by Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Cutwright, Army Reserve Operation Center battle staff NCO, defeated the U.S. Army Garrison team (right), coached by Maj. Paula Martin, readiness officer, U.S. Army Forces Command G-3 Readiness Division, with a final score of 12-7.

**Service
Directory
71063
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FULL**

**RG Williams
Construction
68365
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FULL**

Fort McPherson, Fort Gillem pay homage to fallen Soldier



Maj. Paul F. Mitchell
3rd Medical Command (Deployment Support) Public Affairs Office

Soldiers, Families and friends of the Army Professional Medical Command (ARMEDCOM) assembled at the 3rd Medical Command's (Deployment Support) drill hall on Fort Gillem July 1 to celebrate the life of Master Sgt. Pedro Mercado.

The memorial service was officiated by Maj. Gen. Robert Kasulke, ARMEDCOM commander.

Retired Col. Cornelius Easter, Master Sgt. Mercado's mentor and friend, said Mercado would be remembered as a "Soldier's Soldier, a mentor and a great advocate for the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer Corps."

During the ceremony, many of Mercado's fellow Soldiers said Mercado was known as one to never accept second best when first was available. He was remembered as a Soldier who employed his talents and gifts to faithfully serve his fellow human beings and who always tried to spread light as a positive difference maker for his fellow troops.

Mercado was also praised by his fellow troops as being firm and fair, consistent and congruent in his words, actions and deeds, and as a person who always sought after wisdom as a source of focus and strength.

"Our achievements are shaped by the terrain of our lives and the strength of the foundation set. In building the life we've imagined, we must be true to our beliefs, dare to be ethical, and strive to be honorable, for integrity is the highest ground to which we can aspire. Pedro was the best of the best (at setting this example)," said Easter.

Mercado is survived by his wife, Kimberly Michelle Mercado; his three children, Pedro Mercado, Cherish Gibbs and Romell William; his two grandchildren, Zikira Gibbs and Andrea Mercado; his mother, Nilda Mercado; and his four brothers, John Mercado, Hector Mercado, Miguel Mercado and Nixon Mercado.

Mercado was also survived by his six nieces, 13 nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

His interment is scheduled for late July at Arlington Cemetery in Arlington, Va.



A photo, rifle, helmet, dog tags and pair of boots stand as a testament to Master Sgt. Pedro Mercado during his memorial ceremony held July 1 at the 3rd Medical Command's drill hall on Fort Gillem. Mercado's fellow Soldiers and coworkers paid homage to Mercado during the ceremony, reflecting on his professionalism and strength.

Valmont to remain in confinement pending trial

James-Denton Wyllie
Sentinel editor

On June 25, a military magistrate from the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) held a pretrial confinement hearing for Staff Sgt. Rashad Valmont under Rule for Court-Martial 305 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice in connection with the June 17 shooting death of Master Sgt. Pedro Mercado at Fort Gillem.

USARC had previously announced June 22 that Valmont had been charged with premeditated murder under Article 118 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice in connection with the death of Mercado.

The military magistrate determined Valmont would remain in pretrial confinement.

Mercado died of multiple gunshot wounds June 17 while on duty at the U.S. Army Reserve Center on Fort Gillem. The shooting occurred around 5 p.m.

Both Valmont and Mercado were Army Reserve Soldiers at the time of the shooting, with both holding Active Guard and Reserve status.

Mercado served as the NCOIC of the personnel section of the Army Medical Department's (AMEDD) Professional Management Command (APMC) at the U.S. Army Reserve Center on Fort Gillem. The unit provides centralized management of Army medical personnel nationwide to facilitate recruiting, retention and readiness of Army medical units and personnel.

Valmont worked as a human resource specialist assigned to the AMEDD APMC.

The Army's Criminal Investigation Command continues to investigate the incident, and behavioral science counselors and chaplains have met with unit personnel to provide grief counseling and assistance.

Valmont is presumed innocent of any criminal charges unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Fort McPherson, Fort Gillem



Master Sgt. Pedro Mercado

U.S. Army photo

Maj. Paul F. Mitchell

3rd Medical Command (Deployment Support) Public Affairs Office

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A photo, rifle, helmet and canteen were part of the memorial ceremony for Master Sgt. Pedro Mercado and coworkers.

pay homage to fallen Soldier

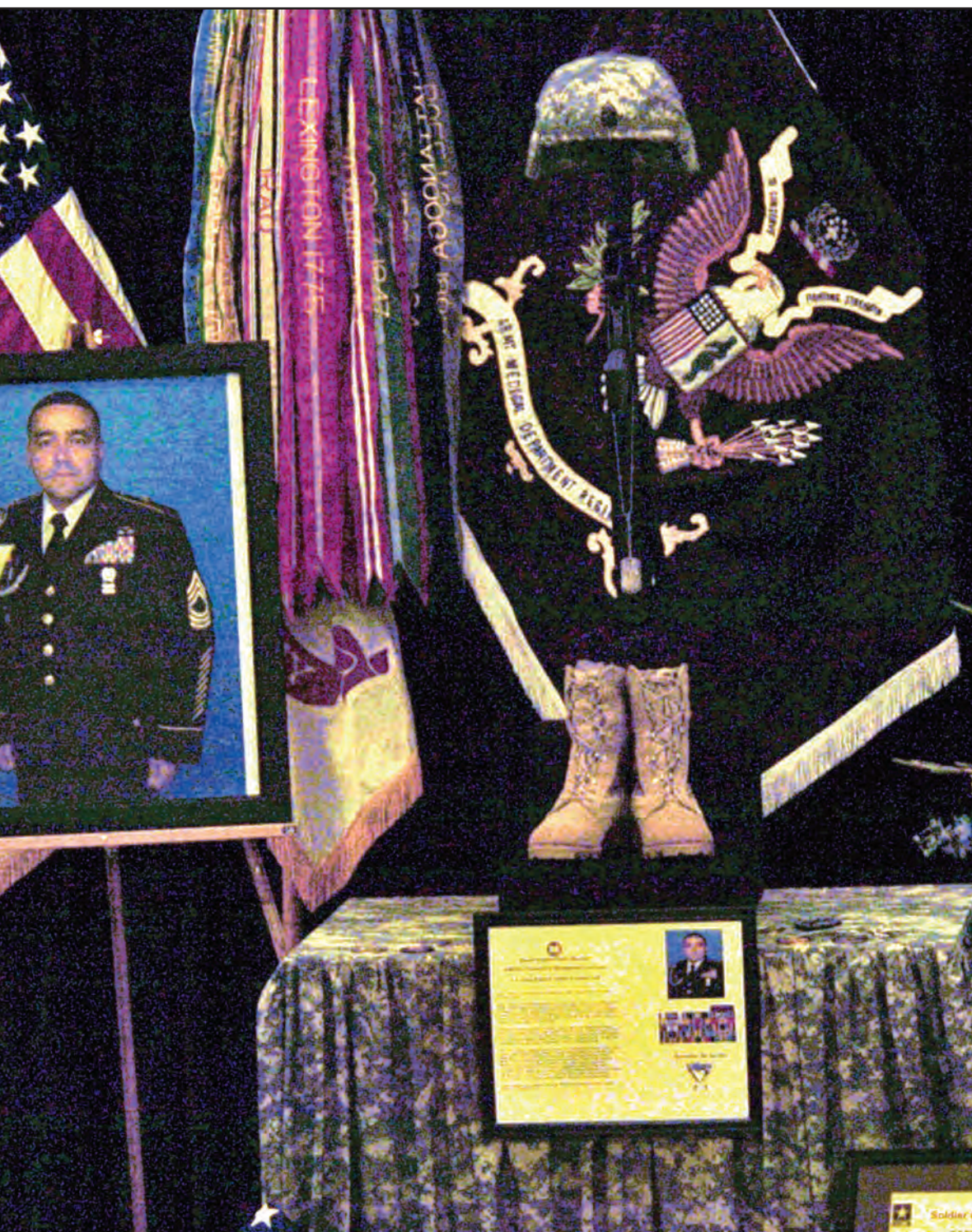


Photo by Maj. Paul F. Mitchell

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Mercado died of multiple gunshot wounds June 17 while on duty at the U.S. Army Reserve Center on Fort Gillem. The shooting occurred around 5 p.m.

Both Valmont and Mercado were Army Reserve Soldiers at the time of the shooting, with both holding Active Guard and Reserve status.

Mercado served as the NCOIC of the personnel section of the Army Medical Department's (AMEDD) Professional Management Command (APMC) at the U.S. Army Reserve Center on Fort Gillem. The unit provides centralized management of Army medical personnel nationwide to facilitate recruiting, retention and readiness of Army medical units and personnel.

Valmont worked as a human resource specialist assigned to the AMEDD APMC.

The Army's Criminal Investigation Command continues to investigate the incident, and behavioral science counselors and chaplains have met with unit personnel to provide grief counseling and assistance.

Valmont is presumed innocent of any criminal charges unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

SURVEY continued from page 4 —

An online inbox also is available for military and civilian members of the DoD. Troops can log into [/www.defense.gov/dadt](http://www.defense.gov/dadt) with their common access card to provide their input.

This site is not confidential; however, directions from the site, as well as in the survey, are provided for members who wish to continue a “confidential dialogue” with non-DoD members of the working group, the general said.

Once servicemembers enter the confidential site, they will be given an untraceable PIN number they then can use to log on from any computer.

This tool will allow gay and lesbian servicemembers to remain anonymous and establish confidential communication, Ham explained. It’s available to all servicemembers, he added, because some may not feel comfortable providing candid remarks.

“It is vitally important that servicemembers continue to be open and frank and totally honest with us in their feedback,” Ham said.

Also, 150,000 surveys will be mailed to military spouses by the end of the month, Ham said. Ham stressed the importance of promptly completing and returning the surveys. The hope, he said, is that that all of the surveys will be submitted within 45 days of receipt, he said.

The working group’s final report is due to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates by Dec. 1.

CSM continued from page 8 —

“I want to ensure when Soldiers leave the garrison, they are physically fit and trained to go to the conventional Army and combat,” he said.

Roberts said he keeps abreast of Soldier issues through bimonthly command sergeant major meetings and by visiting tenant units and interacting with Soldiers. Doing so allows him to feel the heartbeat of the Soldiers and to give out information to keep Soldiers informed of everything going on during day-to-day operations, he said.

Roberts said he also holds an open door policy for Soldiers.

Overall, Roberts said based on feedback he has received, morale in the garrison is very high.

“Soldiers and Families are happy as long as we maintain things,” he said, adding there are no signs of slowing down. “When I first got here, learning garrison business (after) coming from the fight was a challenge, but as I sit on this seat every day, I get better.”

Edward Jones
71415
2X2
B&W

**Cumberland
County School
System**
71319
2X7.5
FULL

GTSMJS Realty
71414
2X2
FULL

Resh Marketing
70594
2X8
FULL



Be on lookout with iWATCH

Neil Carrington

Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, U.S. Army Garrison

Army senior leadership has approved the Army's adoption of the iWATCH Antiterrorism Awareness Program, a nationwide, modern version of the Neighborhood Watch program developed by the Los Angeles Police Department to encourage and enable members of the community to identify and report suspicious behavior that may be associated with terrorist activities.

The Army has also directed Army-wide implementation of iWATCH to run concurrently with the Army's Antiterrorism Awareness Month in August. The purpose of iWATCH is to promote antiterrorism awareness and leverage every member of the Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem community to act as a sensor to help identify and prevent potential terrorist acts.

There are two elements to the initiative: "passive" and "active." The passive element of iWATCH is individual situational awareness of your surroundings. The active element requires individuals to take action and report suspicious behavior or activities to law enforcement for further investigation.

An essential component of iWATCH is reporting suspicious activity. iWATCH aspires to ensure everyone knows how to report suspicious activity. If you see something, say so — report suspicious activity to the U.S. Army Garrison Law Enforcement Desk at Fort McPherson (404-464-2281) or Fort Gillem (404-469-5981)

immediately. The key to implementing iWATCH is education — on the initiative itself, on indicators of terrorist activity and on reporting suspicious activity. Examples of suspicious activity include:

- People drawing or measuring important buildings
- Strangers asking questions about security procedures
- Briefcases, suitcases, backpacks or packages left unattended
- Vehicles left in no parking zones in front of important buildings
- Unfamiliar people in secure areas
- Persons wearing clothes that are noticeably too big or too hot for the weather
- Chemical smells or fumes that seem out of the ordinary for the specific location
- People who do not have a need to know asking questions about sensitive information, such as building blueprints, security plans or VIP travel schedules
- People purchasing supplies or equipment that can be used to make bombs or weapons, or purchasing uniforms without having the proper credentials

Be alert at all times for suspicious activity. Maintain individual situational awareness of your surroundings. Everyone can make a difference by recognizing what to report and reporting it to security forces or law enforcement personnel. Law enforcement officials cannot be everywhere and need the eyes and ears of the entire installation community to help in quell terrorism.

Remember; if you see something, say something!

**Anderson Creek
Club
71482
3X10
FULL**

Community Briefs

Community Forum cancelled

The U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Community Forum, to be hosted by Col. Deborah Grays, USAG commander, has been cancelled until further notice.

ID card office closure

The U.S. Army Garrison Military Personnel Division ID card office will close Thursday from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

There will be no ID services available during this time.

For more information, call the ID card office customer service desk at 464-0021.

Gang awareness briefing

The Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) staff will sponsor a gang awareness briefing Aug. 3 from 9 until 11 a.m. at the Fort McPherson Post Theater.

Representatives from Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem DES, the Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem Criminal Investigative Division, and police gang units from the Hapeville Police Department, the Atlanta Police Department, the Clayton County Police Department and the DeKalb County Police Department will be on hand to inform community members of the growing gang problem throughout Georgia.

Topics of discussion will include:

- Gangs located in metro Atlanta
- Gang criminal practices
- Impact of gangs on communities
- Identifying and avoiding gangs
- How to report gang-related crimes
- Gang recruitment practices
- Impact of the economy on gang activities
- Impact of new laws on gang activities

For more information, call Capt. Jeff Butler, DES investigation division chief, at 464-3474.

BRAC mobile unit

The BRAC mobile unit trailer will be at the resale lot behind the Fort Gillem Shoppette from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday and July 27, Aug. 10 and 24, and Sept. 7 and 24, and at the lot behind the Fort McPherson Post Theater from noon until 4:30 p.m. Wednesday and July 28, and Aug. 4, 11, and 18.

Employees can receive career exploration and assessment, individual training plans, Georgia work ready certification, job search preparation,

labor market information and help creating a résumé.

For more information, call 404-463-3336.

Protestant women

The Fort McPherson Protestant Women of the Chapel will host a seminar titled, "Excuses today, health problems tomorrow: Six steps to a healthy you," Thursday and Aug. 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Chapel Center, Bldg. 51 on Fort McPherson.

Dr. Valerie Saxion, a television host, will be the guest speaker. Child overwatch will be provided.

For more information, call Donna Craven, director of religious education, U.S. Army Garrison Chaplain Office, at 464-2012.

AAFES mobile marketing

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) is implementing the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Mobile Marketing Program in an effort to reach shoppers through a medium that is accessible 24 hours a day.

Users can text "AAFES" to 95613 from their mobile phone to receive discount offers and special promotions from the Post Exchange, the Military STAR Card and the Exchange Online Store.

For more information, call Melinda Mitchell, AAFES public affairs representative, at 404- 469-5485.

Lost ID cards

The policy regarding a lost or stolen common access card (CAC) has changed, effective immedi-

ately, based on Directive Type Memorandum 08-003 (Next Generation Common Access Card Implementation Guidance).

Personnel who lose their CAC must obtain a written report from their commander, local security office, or local military police (MP) or civilian police station, that they have lost their CAC and need to have another one reissued.

Family members and dependents who lose their CAC will still have to get a police report or have their sponsor sign a statement on a DD Form 1172 (Request for ID Card), which they can get from the ID card office. This form will also have to be signed by a verifying official or site security manager from the ID card office.

Retirees, widows or widowers who lose their CAC will have to obtain a police report from their local civilian police or MP office.

Religious Services

Fort McPherson

11 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
Post Chapel, Bldg. 42

Daily Mass
Monday through Friday at noon

Fort Gillem

6:30 p.m. Wednesday – Bible Study
Bldg. 734

11 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
Post Chapel, Bldg. 734

Muslim Representative
Chap. (Maj.) Dawud Agbere
464-0411

Jewish Representative
Jimmy Bradford
770-461-4298

For more information on chapel programs, call 464-2004.

Fort McPherson Post Theater movies

Tonight: How to Train Your Dragon (PG)

July 23: The Bounty Hunter (PG-13)

**Shows start at 7 p.m.
Bring the family and your
own refreshments.**



Leisure Activities

Ticket sales offered at the Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem Leisure Activities Center Ticket Office are final and include all applicable charges imposed on the Installation Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fund (IMWRF) by the vendor.

All sales are final.

To reserve tickets using Visa, MasterCard, American Express or the MWR card, call 464-4392 or 464-3677. Counter sales are conducted in Bldg. 135 at Fort McPherson Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The office opens at 11 a.m. the first workday each month.

The Color Purple

Tickets are now available for the stage play "The Color Purple" at the Fox Theatre.

Tickets cost \$73 for performances Aug. 21 at 3:30 p.m. and Aug. 22 at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.foxtheatre.com.

The Sound of Music

Tickets are now available for the stage play "The Sound of Music" at the Fox Theatre.

Tickets cost \$69 for performances Aug. 28 at 2 p.m. and Aug. 29 at 1 p.m.

For more information, visit www.foxtheatre.com.

Church Girl

Tickets are now available for the stage play "Church Girl" at the Fox Theatre.

Tickets cost \$52.50 for performances Sept. 25 and 26 at 3 p.m.

For more information, visit www.foxtheatre.com.

9 to 5: The Musical

Tickets are now available for the stage play "9 to 5: The Musical" at the Fox Theatre.

Tickets cost \$63.50 for performances Oct. 2 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 3 at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.foxtheatre.com.

Six Flags, White Water

Tickets are available for the Six Flags and White Water theme parks through Aug. 31.

Tickets cost \$27 for a Six Flags one-day pass, \$27 for a White Water one-day pass, \$52 for a Six Flags season pass, \$52 for a White Water season pass and \$87 for a combination Six Flags and White Water season pass.

For more information, go online to www.sixflags.com.

**Armed Forces
Communication
71360
4X10
B&W**

CLASSIFIED
ADS

**CLASSIFIED
ADS**

Remax Advantage
Debra
71413
3X5
B&W

Ruhl & Ruhl
Realtors
71263
3X5
FULL

Fayetteville
Publishing
71179
6X5
FULL

**Great Southern
Homes
71242
6X10.25
FULL**



Parting shot: FORSCOM torch party recognized



Courtesy photo

Soldiers and Civilian employees of U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), the Army's largest command, gathered at FORSCOM headquarters Wednesday to recognize 13 members of FORSCOM's "Torch Party" during a departure ceremony that marked the official start of FORSCOM's move to its new home at Fort Bragg, N.C. The FORSCOM employees who participated in the ceremony will be joined by 37 other FORSCOM staff members in North Carolina as they plant the command's ceremonial guidon at the Old Bowley School on Fort Bragg and begin preparations for the arrival of several hundred additional members of FORSCOM's advance echelon in October. Under the provisions of BRAC legislation of 2005, Fort McPherson must close no later than Sept. 15, 2011.